GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3417
ANSWERED ON:15.12.2006
DRINKING WATER SUPPLY THROUGH PANCHAYATI RAJ INSTITUTIONS
Pateriya Smt. Neeta;Virendra Kumar Shri

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a)Whether rural drinking water supply scheme is being implemented through the Panchayati Raj institutions; and

(b) If so, the details thereof ?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT(SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU)

(a)&(b) Yes, Sir. Swajaldhara scheme was launched in December 2002 wherein projects may be taken up by the Village /Block level Panchayati Raj Institutions or User Groups that come forward and agree to adhere to the principles of implementing projects with a participatory, demand driven approach. The projects are expected to ensure that the public obtain the level of service they desire and can afford to pay part of the capital cost and fully for the operation and maintenance. Further, full cost recovery of operations and maintenance and replacement costs is expected to generate a sense of ownership and ensure the financial viability and sustainability of the schemes.

Up to 20% of Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP) funds may be allocated for the Swajaldhara scheme annually. At the beginning of each financial year, funds under Swajaldhara scheme are allotted to all States from the Centre as per the inter-State ARWSP allocation ratio fixed for the year. The States then make district-wise allocations and consider specific proposals at District Water and Sanitation Committee (DWSC)/ State Water and Sanitation Mission (SWSM) level and approve them in conformity with Swajaldhara Guidelines.

Swajaldhara has the following key elements:

Demand-driven and community participation approach;

Panchayats / communities to plan, implement, operate, maintain and manage all drinking water schemes;

Capital cost sharing and 100% sharing of Operation & Maintenance cost by users. The proportion of capital cost shared should increase proportionately with increasing service demand. The community contribution can be in the form of cash or kind (labour, land or material), except for SC / ST habitations, where it may only be in kind.

Full ownership of drinking water assets with Gram Panchayats.

Full Operation and Maintenance (O&M) by the Users / Panchayats.

After the completion of the scheme, the same shall be commissioned and taken over for operation and maintenance by the Gram Panchayat / Village Water and Sanitation Committee / Beneficiary Group in a Gram Sabha meeting.